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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP  
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE: 25X1X6

SUBJECT Activities of Deputy Prime Minister Zdenek Fierlinger

INFO. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DIST. 31 October 1946

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SUPPLEMENT

ORIGIN

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This document is hereby added to  
CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the  
letter of 10 October 1978 from the  
Director of Central Intelligence to the

1. The recent activities of Vice-Premier Fierlinger in the cabinet have done much to draw firm the lines of conflict within the Social Democratic Party. The party leadership is beginning to feel its strength increasingly as a result of the strong development of its local organizations. Each of the leaders feels that he has a positive constituency to fall back on, entitling him, therefore, to a more critical voice in party councils. This, of course, did not obtain during the times when estimates of party strength were nebulous and when Fierlinger was able to trade all out on his personal influence. On the two occasions in recent cabinet meetings when Fierlinger took a strong stand—the first in supporting Kratochvil as Ambassador to Great Britain over Dr. Patzak ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Comment: According to ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ 25X1A2g B. Kratochvil, an official in the Ministry of Education who belongs to the extreme left of the Social Democratic Party, was appointed Ambassador on 3 October 1946), and the second in the debate over the composition of the UN delegation, wherein Fierlinger championed himself toward what would have amounted to his assumption of the leadership of the delegation over Masaryk—he alienated elements in his party formerly loyal to him.
2. Dr. Patzak, Social Democratic leader of twenty-three years standing, was long considered in official circles as number one candidate for the diplomatic post in Great Britain whenever it was definitely decided that Masaryk was not to go there. His strong connections in British Labor Party circles were long recognized, not to speak of the additional asset represented by the position his wife enjoys in British political and cultural groups. During his five weeks' stay at the Paris Peace Conference, Dr. Patzak was frequently given to understand from Prague that he was to be named to London. Furthermore, Foreign Minister Masaryk gave him special tasks with the British designed to obtain support for certain aspects of Czech policy. He met with Attlee and Bevin and conferred with the Executive Committee of the Labor Party.
3. Upon learning of the decision to name Kratochvil to London, Patzak met with Fierlinger in the Executive Committee meeting of the party, where he clearly stated his future course of action. He emphasized the fact that Fierlinger should understand that he (Patzak) would now turn his whole attention to internal politics and that much of that action would be designed against Fierlinger. Further, he regards his post as Presidial Chief of the Ministry of Information as merely temporary and he will take a more active interest in the internal affairs of the party.

CLASSIFICATION

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ADSO	x	A DEP.	x	FBT		SPDE		VTO		x							
DADSO		FBK		FBV		SPDS		B DEP.		x							x
EXEC.		FBL		FBX		SPDT		CFCB		x							
CONTROL		FBM	x	FBZ		SCO		CTRB									
PLANS	x	FBP		SPDA		TRB											

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4. Fierlinger's pressures to get himself named to the UN delegation also left a bad taste, at least among the leaders of the party, who, thus far, are the only ones who know about it. These people feel that, in so doing, Fierlinger was willing to shelve his responsibility as leader of the party during a time of critical action in favor of personal considerations designed eventually to achieve for himself the portfolio of Foreign Affairs.

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(~~CONFIDENTIAL~~) Comment: The opinion that Fierlinger is angling for the portfolio of Foreign Affairs was expressed in ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~. The same report also mentioned the machinations within the Cabinet in regard to the composition of the delegation to the UN.)

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